



Mid-South Peace & Justice Center Newsletter

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An interfaith, interracial membership organization for education, information sharing, and nonviolent action

IRAQ WAR—RESIST

By Gerry Vanderhaar



As an American citizen who has spent almost all of my 71 years in this country, I publicly pledge that I will resist with my body, mind and spirit a U.S. war against Iraq.

I make this pledge first because of the suffering such a war will inflict on the people of Iraq, already crushed by ten years of sanctions and U.S.-led bombing. Iraq was once the most prosperous country in the Middle East. Saddam Hussein oversaw his people's development while at the same time denying their civil liberties and imposing a restrictive regime. He miscalculated in 1991 by invading Kuwait, drawing down the wrath of the first President Bush who used that invasion as a rationale for unleashing American military might against Iraq.

I pledge to resist the war secondly because of what it will do to our own people. The mangled bodies and charred remains of our servicemen and women killed in this war will be brought home to national sadness and

anger. All those others placed in the position of having to kill, as well as those ordering and supporting the killing, will be severely wounded in spirit.

The body politic of our country will be torn asunder in a way not seen since the dark days of Vietnam.

Tens of thousands of other Americans are similarly pledging to put our bodies on the line in nonviolent resistance to a war against Iraq. Our voices may not be heeded now by the people in power in Washington, but those same people will be forced to listen when every day our social machinery is disrupted by protest.

We would like our country to take a different approach to Iraq, an approach of diplomacy and international solidarity to improve the lot of the people rather than fixating on removing their leader.

That way lays disaster, for them and for us. I must, and will, resist it.



<http://www.liberated.tao.ca/fnb.htm>



Iraq children with Ceylon Mooney MSPJ Board member.

PEACE VIGILS

Every Monday morning during rush hour, 7:30-8:30, at the intersection of Poplar and East Parkway

[Vigils for Peace--No Iraq War,](#)

Jointly sponsored by Peace Action of the Mid-South Peace and Justice Center and Pax Christi Memphis. Bring your signs. Let's stop this thing before it gets started!!



IRAQ POLICY: SAME OLD STUPID WAR

By Ceylon Mooney



PEACE ACTION

Help stop a War on Iraq.

Peace Action, an arm of the Mid-South Peace and Justice Center, meets every first and third Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. at the Center to plan strategies and initiate actions of public witness in the face of this impending disaster. Join us as we all do our bit in this anti-war, pro-peace time of emergency.

Peace Action
<http://www.peace-action.org>
 And
<http://www.midsouthpeace.org>

A year ago our spokespeople and policy makers in Washington were rattling their swords at Iraq, threatening warfare under the pretext of “war against terrorism” and “weapons of mass destruction.”

With war on the horizon then, Voices in the Wilderness put together our 41st delegation to Iraq. I spent three weeks Bagdad, Basra and Mosul, moving at the pace of life under siege. I lived with the ordinary Iraqi people under sanctions and threats of war (in addition to routine attacks by U.S. and UK planes), visiting top UN agency officials and seeing more of Iraq than American politicians are willing to see.

Now the same threats are being made again. Although most of the world is against this unilateralism, the Saddam Ideologues in the United States have high jacked America’s foreign policy on a one-way ticket to another Gulf War.

Donald Rumsfeld recently said that Saddam Hussein poses an unacceptable threat to the world and is close to developing nuclear weapons. Iraq’s neighbors do not share this view. They are far superior militarily, thanks to the heavy flow of U.S. arms to that region. In fact, Turkey, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Syria are among those trading with Iraq outside of the UN “Oil for Food” program, and to claim the Iraq poses a military threat to the United States is ridiculous.

The swords are rattling, the drums are beating, and the tune goes something like this:

“Ties to Al-Qaida”

Although the New York Post’s September 5 front page showed a picture of Saddam Hussein with the headline, “IRAQ KNEW” (about the September 11 attack), there is still no evidence connecting the government of Iraq with

Al-Qaida.

“Weapons of Mass Destruction and UN Arms Inspections”

It has been nearly four years since inspectors were, according to former chief UNSCOM inspector Scott Ritter, “ordered out by the U.S. government.” Since then, Iraq has refused to allow UN inspectors back in. The U.S. is demanding the return of arms inspectors--at the same time funding and arming rebel groups in northern Iraq (Iraq Liberation Act of 1998). Further, the loudest voices in the Bush administration are yelling “regime change” (that’s “assassination” in plain English) and calling for war. Regardless, Baghdad has invited Congress and weapons inspectors into Iraq, a proposal that Secretary of State Colin Powell called “utter nonsense.” We have to start from somewhere. Why not here?

The economic sanctions continue to do their thing—kill the weakest and most vulnerable Iraqis. Thousands of children in Iraq died from treatable illnesses like typhoid, pneumonia, diphtheria and diarrhea last month.

As the Iraqis face another war, Americans of conscience face the task of preventing it. There is no shortage of opportunity to speak the truth, gum up the works of the war machine, and get our hands dirty. The many ways of acting locally—vigil, picket, sit-in, networking, keeping the phones ringing—are the heart of grassroots democracy. Whether sitting in or sitting down, interviewing or intervening, we can take actions to stop this war.

Ceylon Mooney, a member of Voices in the Wilderness, is on the Board of the Mid-South Peace and Justice Center.

Deep listening is the basis for reconciliation. To reconcile means to bring peace and happiness to members of our family, society, and other nations. To promote the work of reconciliation, we have to refrain from aligning ourselves with one party or another so that we understand both. This work takes courage--Thich Nhat Hanh



Mirror of Truth Tour

The Mid-South Peace and Justice Center and Pax Christi Memphis invited the Mirror of Truth Bus Tour to speak at Christian Brothers University and the University of Memphis on Thursday, November 7th, at St. Peter's Catholic Church downtown and State Tech on Friday the 8th, and to lead a nonviolent witness at the former Defense Depot on Saturday morning the 9th.

The Tour is putting the spotlight on weapons of mass destruction here in the United States, speaking out against war with the people of Iraq. A project of two national organizations—Pax Christi USA and Voices in the Wilderness—the Mirror of Truth Tour features Memphis' own Ceylon Mooney, a well-known musician and a Peace and Justice Center Board Member. It is visiting weapons sites—development, storage, sales and waste—during its three-month itinerary through the East and South, culminating at Fort Benning, Georgia at the annual School of the Americas vigil and protest November 15-17.

The tour has visited classrooms, done street theater, led demonstrations, had e “bands against

bombs” and “poetry not bombs” outreach—all to raise a stink over the price of war and weapons in our own back yard. As Marquita Bradshaw of Memphis' Youth Terminating Pollution has said, “follow that bomb.”

Down Airways Blvd, the Defense Depot of Memphis, which began housing chemical agents and other hazardous materials at the end of World War II, was an EPA “superfund” site. While in operation from 1942 to 1997, many serious accidents occurred with dangerous chemicals at the depot and left the surrounding area an ecological disaster. The Army created a secret military dump, where a wide array of dangerous toxins and hazardous waste was intentionally buried. This military dump (also known as Dunn Field) was kept secret from the African-American residents in this heavily populated area until the day the federal facility closed, despite the dump's close proximity to people's homes and to a number of schools. Now a youth sports facility is being built right across the street!

Ceylon Mooney

Letter from the Chair

The Peace and Justice Center Board gathered for an all-day retreat on October 19th, under the inspiring guidance of facilitator Dr. Mary Jo Greil, President of the Carson-Greil Group. We renewed our energy by honoring the past and welcoming the future. In the face of the Impending war against Iraq we determined that the Center's Peace Action arm would mount a strong nonviolent campaign to prevent the war.

The Board also focused on ways of enhancing the Center's programs—Food Not Bombs, the Orange Mound Community Gardens, and the Global Goods Store and Market—utilizing the cooperative efforts of volunteers and Board members. Through belt tightening and squeezing the most out of our meager resources we are managing to

balance the budget each month, but just barely. Please help us STOP THE WAR and continue our local peacemaking efforts. The war threats are putting us on an emergency footing. We need your financial assistance to carry on our weekly vigils at the intersection of Poplar and East Parkway, and our “Attack Iraq No” outreach in churches and schools and the whole Mid-South community. Please give whatever you can afford in the envelope enclosed with this Newsletter. **WHAT WE CAN'T DO ALONE WE CAN DO TOGETHER.**

Sandy Furrh, Chair of the Peace and Justice Center Board

**Join the Movement
For Fair Trade in
Memphis**

Volunteer at the Global Goods Store and Market. Go to website and add you name to the calendar.

<http://www.globalgoods.dharma7.com>

Buy fair trade products at Global Goods and other fair trade providers. Links are available on the website.



Promoting Fair Trade: Coffee, Books, Chocolate, Clothing and Gifts

**Global Goods Store
Friday 6-9pm
Sat-Sun 10-3**

**Global Goods
Market
Last Saturday of the
month
March through Oct**

<http://www.globalgoods.dharma7.com>

**MSPJ 2002
Peacemaker Awards
Dinner**

Close to 200 Peace and Justice Center members and friends gathered at Lindenwood Christian Church on Thursday, September 11th, 2002 for the Center's annual dinner honoring individuals and organizations that have made significant nonviolent contributions to peace and justice.

Dr Pete Gethje
(center)
with other guests at
the Awards dinner
reception



Guests enjoying the
reception, including
Chris and Ray
Laurtidge (center)
and Celeste Wray
(right)



Dr James Wingate
(Center) President of
Lemoyne Owen College
talking with Andrew
Wells of the Life
Foundation, Int'l



Under the capable guidance of Channel 5 news anchor Joe Birch as master of ceremonies, Peacemaker Awards were presented to:



**SAINT PATRICK’S CHURCH
Neighborhood Solidarity**

The St. Patrick’s food pantry supplies groceries to neighborhood families, provides space to AA, and houses Smart From the Start, a program working with at-risk families. With the challenges brought by building the new basketball arena across the street, St. Patrick’s is expanding its outreach to the neighborhood in partnership with Clayborn-Bell Temple.

**CONRAD LEHFELDT
Community Service**

Conrad is a dedicated professional at MIFA, the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association. As Director of Housing, then Program Executive, and now Associate Executive Director for Programs, he is responsible for a budget of eight million dollars, helping keep MIFA delivering its needed services effectively and efficiently.

**FOOD NOT BOMBS
Homeless Outreach**

The Food Not Bombs group provides free vegetarian meals as a positive nonviolent action in the face of our government’s scandalous misuse of funds for war-making. The group serves hot, home-cooked vegetarian meals in Court Square downtown twice a week to whoever needs them, no questions asked.

EARL RANDLE

Arts in Service of Humanity

Earl grew up surrounded by the cotton fields of the Mississippi Delta and is now surrounded by joyfully singing parishoners at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Whitehaven as Co-Minister of Music. In between the cotton fields and the church Earl has written songs for the Pointer Sisters, the Doobie Brothers, and Al Green, worked musically with the LeMoyne-Owen Youth and Cultural Group, the Foote and Cleaborn Homes, and served as Artist-in-the-Schools for the Memphis Arts Council.

**DR. LAWRENCE MADLOCK
Human Rights**

As a doctor with a specialty in internal medicine, Lawrence has worked in non-typical medical places such as the Shelby County Department of Corrections, the Downtown Clinic for homeless in Nashville, and for the last ten years at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Memphis. He has taken his medical skills abroad to those in need in less developed parts of the world: in Kenya, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Madagascar, Mexico, and China.

**BARBARA WISHINSKY
Labor and Economic Justice**

A compassionate psychiatric nurse and a veteran of wartime military service, Barbara is Program Manager of Alpha Omega Veterans Services, providing food and shelter for over a hundred men and women who once served their country in the military but now find themselves down and out. In the early 1990s she served as President of her chapter of the National Federation of Federal Employees in her home state of North Dakota.

**LARRY SMITH and NAOMI VAN TOL
Environmental Outreach**

Naomi Van Tol and her husband Larry Smith have made their marriage an advocacy for the environment. Larry is Director of the Wolf River Conservancy, an organization dedicated to preserving this valuable and picturesque slice of Mid-South greenway. Naomi’s commitment to the environment has taken her to Friends of the Lucius Burch State Natural Area, the Wolf River Conservancy the Ghost River State Natural Area, and the Sierra Club, among others.

**TENNESSEE COALITION TO
ABOLISH STATE KILLING
Social Justice**

For the last three years members of TCASK have been holding demonstrations against the death penalty every Wednesday afternoon at the intersection of Union and McLean. TCASK has also sponsored public presentations by speakers who oppose capital punishment, including family members of murder victims, religious leaders, professors, lawyers, and like-minded others.

TANDY GILLILAND

Lifetime Achievement.

Throughout her life Tandy Gilliland has been sowing many hope-filled seeds of caring, of knowledge, of faith, friendship, and peace. As teacher, wife, mother, church activist, higher education supporter, medical organizer and community visionary, Tandy has helped make Memphis not just a city of good abode, but a city of which all of us can be proud because it’s a city of caring, as she is.

IRAQ WAR—A DISASTER

By Lawrence and Carolyn Jordan

A unilateral preemptive war on Iraq would be an unmitigated, shortsighted disaster.

Saddam Hussein does not suffer from megalomania. He is a pragmatic thug, who built his power on weapons handed him by previous misguided American administrations. He knows that, in the present context of world opinion, without the sympathy of other Arab States Iraq can gain nothing by aggression. Our government need not be so paranoid about the possible threat of Hussein-inspired terror on Americans that we perpetrate even worse horror on innocent citizens of Iraq, while incurring American and allied losses as well.

Most importantly, the United States must avoid appointing itself the world's judge and policeman. A peaceful world will never evolve from a foreign policy based on the morality of the old "Wild West." The United Nations is the proper venue for bringing international human rights violators such as Saddam Hussein to account.

Is it possible that our military ire is directed only against rather innocuous threats to the lavish American lifestyle? We dare not challenge China in the same way over its alleged atrocities. Something is wrong if our "national interests" are so often at odds with the economic development goals of the majority of other nations. We share the same planet whose bounty is finite. As the super power of the globe, the United

States should be at the forefront of collective efforts to bring the global activities of humans into ecological balance. If a solution is not found quickly the civilization of the Third Millennium will be terminal.

In the long term, our national security interests, i.e., the protection of our Constitutional freedoms and standard of living, will be enhanced only to the extent that we live up to our peacemaker role as the current superpower on the Earth. The ends do not justify the means. A policy premised on making the world safe for Americans with disregard to the human rights of alien peoples is deceptive. The real war on terrorism we need to fight is for the minds of rising generations around the world. A true sense of security will be regained only when our government is widely perceived as a good neighbor who respects the aspirations of other nations large and small for freedom and prosperity.

Dr. Lawrence Jordan, a Peace and Justice Center Board member, is director of graduate studies in the school of biomedical engineering at the University of Tennessee, Memphis. This article is an excerpt of a longer letter he and his wife Carolyn wrote to Senator William Frist.

To practice nonviolence, first of all we must learn to deal peacefully with ourselves. In us, there is a certain amount of violence and a certain amount of nonviolence. Depending on the state of our being, our response to things will be more or less nonviolent. With mindfulness—the practice of peace—we can begin by working to transform the wars in ourselves.

--Thich Nhat Hanh
Living Buddha, Living Christ



"Missile street"
Basra Iraq. Our
military tax
dollars at work.

This issue of the Peace and Justice Center newsletter was edited by Gerry Vanderhaar, produced by Allan Lummus, and printed by Diamond Printing Company, a union shop.

Orange Mound Community
Garden

<http://www.midsouthpeace.org>

Government Officials: Let them know what you think— it’s Still a Democracy



President **George W. Bush**
 White House Comment Desk
 1-202-456-1111 (phone)
 1-202-456-2461 (fax)

Secretary of Defense **Donald H. Rumsfeld**
 The Pentagon
 Washington, DC. 20301

Secretary of State **Colin L. Powell**
 Department of State
 2201 C. St., NW
 Washington, DC 20520

Mid-South Senators and Representatives

Tennessee
 Senator **Fred Thompson** (R)
 Senator **Bill Frist** (R)
 Rep. **Harold Ford** (D-Dist. 9)
 Rep. **John Tanner** (R-Dist. 8)
 Rep. **Ed Bryant** (R-Dist. 7)

Arkansas
 Senator **Blanche Lincoln** (D)
 Senator **Tim Hutchison** (R)
 Rep. **Marion Barry** (D-Dist.1, east Ar.)

Mississippi
 Senator **Trent Lott** (R)
 Senator **That Cochran** (R)
 Rep. **Roger Wicker** (R-Dist.1, north Ms.)

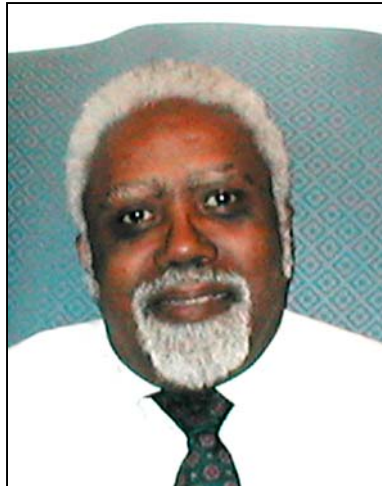
For status of bills pending in Congress call 1-202-225-1772.

To e-mail any of our congressional people go to their own individual page at Senate.gov or House.gov



Board Profile:

New board member **Larry Jordan** is an associate professor of biomedical engineering at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. For a number of years he served on local and national committees of the American Friends Service Committee. Larry has supported the Midsouth Peace and Justice Center as a former member of the Nonviolence Education and Advocacy Resource (NEAR) committee and also has served on the board of the Memphis Urban League Computer Training Center. He says, “Being involved with



the P&J Center gives me a way to engage with others in the Memphis community who seek to reverse the many kinds of destruction humans are doing on this beautiful planet.”

Larry grew up in Virginia in the days of “Jim Crow” and moved on to college and graduate education in physics in Nashville, TN, and Princeton, NJ, before marrying his wife of 42 years, Carolyne. They are members of the Memphis Friends Meeting (Quaker faith). He was employed as a college teacher, a space scientist and a transportation analyst before coming to Memphis.

Peace and Justice Center Board

Sandy Furrh, Chair
Family Counselor, Healthquest

Alcine Arnett
Neighborhood Covenant of Orange Mound

Ceylon Mooney
Peace Activist, Voice in the Wilderness.

Lorenzo Banks, Vice Chair,
AFSCME, LOCAL 1733

Andrea Buggie
University of Memphis Student, Food Not Bombs Organizer

Dr. Portia McCaskill
Future America Basic Research Institute

Allan Lummus, Treasurer
Medical Researcher, University of Tennessee HSC

Lawrence Jordon
Biomedical Engineer, University of Tennessee HSC

Steve Tammelleo
Taco Bell Protest organizer

Dr Gerard Vanderhaar, Secretary,
Professor Emeritus, Christian Brothers

James Thornton
P&J Center Development Director

Advertising Opportunity

Members and friends of the Peace and Justice Center—let us all know about your products and services. An ad in this Newsletter reaches at least 1200 people, all of whom should know about the kinds of opportunities are there for those of us looking for alternatives to the corporate culture. Call the Center at 725-4990 for guidelines and deadlines.



A Publication of News,
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Just Peace

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***Demand Justice,
Now!***

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://www.midsouthpeace.org>

Peace and Justice Actions

Food Not Bombs, cooks every
Thursday and Friday, serves every
Thursday and Saturday

Peace Action, vigils every Monday
7:30 am to 8:30 am, at the Median
of East Parkway at Poplar.

Movie Night, first Monday of the
month in the First Congo Movie
Theater.

First Friday Potlucks, bring a dish
to MSPJ meeting room for fun and
comradery.

Wed. Dec. 4--Pastors for Peace
going to Chiapas--at the Center--
Potluck and Presentation, 7:00 p.m



ONLINE?

When we know, so will you!

Mid-South Peace & Justice Center updates, meetings and events

Your newsletter by email saving postage, paper and ink.

Register online at <http://www.midsouthpeace.org/membe.html>

Your email address will NOT be shared with other organizations.

Please include your name, address and phone number when you register as we are
updating all our files. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

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